



WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

“CLUB REMINISCENCES”

An Address by

ISAAC PITBLADO, Esq., K.C., LL.D.

November 2nd, 1944



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ARRANGEMENTS

To celebrate the Club's Seventieth Anniversary, a Dinner will be held in the Main Dining Room at seven o'clock in the evening of Thursday, November second, nineteen hundred and forty-four.

Isaac Pitblado, Esq., K.C., LL.D., has accepted the invitation of the Committee to speak. His subject will be "Club Reminiscences."

If you plan to attend, kindly complete and return the enclosed card as early as possible.

The Dinner is for members only.

The charge will be \$2.50 inclusive.

*J. Vincent Nutter,
Honorary Secretary*

Dress: Dinner Jacket

Three hundred and fifteen acceptances were received but unfortunately after enjoying a period of ideal Fall weather, a young blizzard developed on the day of the celebration which stalled a number of automobiles and made taxicabs scarce, thus preventing 40 members from attending. Amongst those was Mr. P. A. Macdonald who joined the Club in 1880

and thus was the oldest living member. It had been arranged that he should occupy a seat at the Head Table.

The pre-dinner refreshments were served in the large sun room and the Ladies' Annex which had been closed to the ladies on this occasion.

At the dinner Mr. J. Herbert Riley, President of the Club, presided and with him at the Head Table were the following:

Mr. Isaac Pitblado, K.C., LL.D.

Hon. W. J. Tupper, K.C.

Mr. E. H. Macklin

Mr. Alfred J. Andrews, K.C.

Mr. W. Sanford Evans

Mr. J. Lonsdale Doupe

Mr. G. Montegu Black

Mr. George Northwood

Two hundred and fifteen members were accommodated in the main dining room and sixty at a long table stretched from the entrance to the dining room the length of the hall.

Amplifiers had been installed so that all present could hear as well as see the speaker quite distinctly.

Following the Toast to the King and the reading of telegrams from out of town members the President called upon Mr. Pitblado whose address follows:

—J.V.N.

ADDRESS

Mr. President and Gentlemen:

I appreciate very much the honour which has been conferred upon me by the Committee of this Club in inviting me to address the Members on this auspicious occasion. I appreciate the honour all the more when I realize that I follow in the footsteps of those distinguished members who have been privileged to address the Club on former Anniversaries, and who have been referred to by the President in his remarks tonight.

Of course, I realize that *my* selection as a speaker on this occasion is due largely to the fact that my recollections of the Club go back further than most of its present members, as I had the honour of being elected a member in the year 1900, 44 years ago.

I am told that in some parts of Scotland (from which country a great deal of the wisdom of the world comes), there is a saying that if you want a short winter, sign a promissory note in the fall, payable in the spring. Well, some months ago I promised the President to deliver an address at the 70th Anniversary and he told me that was

not going to take place till the fall, with the result that I have had a very short summer and my promissory note is now due.

When I look over the fine audience assembled here tonight I am delighted to see so many habitués of the Club. And I am reminded of the story of the gentleman who was going on a trip to New Orleans for the first time. A friend of his who knew the city well, said to him, "When you go to New Orleans go to a certain Club to which I'll give you an introduction. You can be put up there and get a room. It's a fine old Club; you'll see many of the habitués and will get a clearer conception of the real old timers." So he went to the Club in the afternoon, got a room, had dinner and went to bed early. He couldn't, however, sleep much during the night because of a terrible noise and boisterous racket which continued until the wee small hours. In the morning when he went to breakfast in the dining room, he said to the negro waiter, "George, that was some noise last night," to which the waiter replied, "Shure was sir." Then the visitor said, "*I suppose, George, those were some of the habitués.*" The waiter looked puzzled for a moment and then his face lighted up and he said, "Oh no sir, no sir, those were sons of 'habitchues.'"

Well, whatever they had in New Orleans, here tonight we have the real habitués themselves.

Thirty years ago, Mr. Isaac Campbell, (affectionately known throughout Winnipeg as the "People's Isaac"), in his address on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary, spoke particularly about the *Traditions of the Club*.

He emphasized first of all, the *Tradition of Hospitality* and had this to say:

"In the lately published Diary of Major Pond there is a happy description of his visit to Winnipeg with Mark Twain twenty years ago. Major Pond for thirty of the years following the Civil War up to the publication of his book had much to do with literary and public men, and passed the portals of many a celebrated club. Of very few of them has he written as he did of ours. I will read a sentence from the Major's book:

" 'After the lecture to a crowded audience we were again entertained at a reception given by the *Famous Manitoba Club*. ' So it appears that when we were only half of our present age we had achieved some fame and reputation. Doubtless the chief credit for this must be given to the traditional hospitality of the Manitoba Club.

"What a long line of distinguished guests—many of them leaving great historic names—have crossed our threshold: All the Governors-General, commencing with Lord Dufferin in 1877; all the Prime Ministers of Canada, I think, with the possible exception of Sir John Thompson. Tonight we

had the present Prime Minister (Sir Robert Borden) as our guest and listened to his brief patriotic speech with great pleasure. As our guests we have had many other leading Canadian statesmen, great British political leaders and some American statesmen (I think the Club entertained General Sherman—I am certain that his brother the Senator, was once a guest), then railway magnates and capitalists too numerous to mention, celebrated travellers and explorers and famous men of letters. Amongst the latter (my list is very incomplete and I speak from memory), Mark Twain, Max O'Rell, Bill Nye (perhaps the gentlest and most genial of them all), Warburton Pike, Tyrell the explorer, David Christie Murray, Sir H. M. Stanley, Marion Crawford, Prince Kropotkin, Thompson Seton, and Ian MacLaren, author of 'The Bonnie Briar Bush.' These all left pleasant memories of their visits. They all testified that they carried away pleasant recollections of the Club. So that the Manitoba Club has become famous through its *tradition of hospitality.*"

The Tradition of fine hospitality has been well lived up to during the succeeding thirty years since Mr. Campbell so spoke.

We have since then entertained every succeeding Governor-General and Premier of Canada; and we have had as our guests distinguished men from all parts of the world.

Some of the other traditions about which Mr. Campbell spoke were:

A Tradition of Efficient Service,

A Tradition of a Continuous Line of Great Presidents,

A Tradition of Honour and Personal Character in its members,

And a Glorious Military Tradition.

And he urged the members of the Club to live up to those Traditions so that in future celebrations they might be able to be as proud of this Club as were the members of that day.

I am happy to say tonight that as I look back over the thirty years since he spoke we can proudly say that we have tried to do honour to the founders and early members of the Club and have endeavoured to keep well its past Traditions.

Insofar as the *Tradition of Efficient Service* is concerned, efficient service lies at the very foundation of a Club's existence, and we have kept well that tradition.

In 1923, we engaged *Mr. C. E. Elsey as Manager*, and the quiet and efficient way in which the Club has been run since his appointment (20 years ago) reflects the greatest credit upon him and his managing ability.

Another efficient employee is our *Steward, Mr. George Dunham*, who came to the Club in 1930. Prior to that time

he had had experience on dining cars and at the Royal Alexandra Hotel. His faithful painstaking care is to be seen at all the Club functions and in the daily service of meals to the members.

Mr. Fred Steele, our Accountant, joined us in 1929, and has looked after our accounts ever since. Originally a school-teacher, with his educational training he has been able to give us fine service.

Our Billiard Marker, James Gleason, familiarly known to so many of our billiard players, joined the Club staff in 1929, and has been very efficient in managing the billiard room and its various competitions.

Then our *Chef* who entered our service in 1922, (22 years ago), is still carrying on. True, he now operates with considerable difficulty as he has not the help of trained male assistant cooks as he had in the olden days, but he has been able to train women as his assistants and so has managed to give the Club excellent service.

Most of us do not even know the name of our Chef and I should like, therefore, to emblazon it on the records of the Club.

Mr. Jean Bigourdon, our Chef. (The Chef, being present, was then introduced to the members.)

It has been no easy job to run a club during all these years with the social and economic changes which have been

continually taking place, and as we have emerged from a frontier town to a large metropolitan centre but the difficulties have been especially great since this present war broke out.

Prior to 1939 our Manager had chosen most of his staff from the Cameron Cadets or like organizations. This meant that when war was declared most of them were needed in the army. In all, twenty-seven have joined the forces, of whom sixteen left immediately upon the outbreak of war.

Owing to the difficulty in finding male members of the staff, the committee decided that we would have to employ females, and so we engaged girls wherever they could be used in this Club. That, of course, was a drastic change.

The idea of allowing women to enter the portals of those portions of the Club sacred to men only, was contrary to the views of many of the older members, but necessity knows no law, and I think the members now feel that this change which was brought about by the exigencies of the occasion, is an excellent one and that the girls have been giving us splendid service.

And I need not remind you of the difficulties in wartime of getting proper supplies.

And yet with all these difficulties both as to staff and supplies we have always had most efficient service in this Club.

To *all* our faithful employees (both those whom I have mentioned and others whom I have not named), the members of this Club should render their grateful thanks for the "efficient service" which they have received in the past and which they are now receiving.

I cannot close my remarks about the tradition of *efficient service* without mentioning the fact that the Club has been very fortunate throughout all these years in having as members of the Managing Committee, men who have given unsparingly of their time and thought in order to further the interests of the Club. Without their services it would have been impossible for the Club to have given the efficient service which has characterized it.

The names of the members of the present Committee of Management are to be found on our dinner programme.

Then Mr. Campbell spoke of the *Tradition of a Continuous Line of Great Presidents*.

At our celebration in 1914, he read the names of the Presidents down to that time, and tonight I would like you to read the names of our Presidents since that time, as they are emblazoned on our dinner programmes. We have had twelve in the past thirty years—all of them were "men honourable in business and esteemed by their fellow members and by the citizens outside the Club."

Each of them contributed in his own special way to the success of the Club. I should like to say something about each of them but time forbids.

However, I feel that I must speak about two of these Presidents, viz: the late Mr. George W. Allan and Mr. E. H. Macklin.

Mr. Allan occupied the President's chair for a longer period than any other person—seven successive years—1916 to 1923. They were hard years and he served the Club faithfully and well.

Most of you knew George Allan. He was a prince among men; big in stature and big in heart. Somewhat gruff and outspoken. A fine athlete in his early days and always a great admirer of all amateur sport.

He came to Winnipeg in 1884, a bachelor, when the West was in the making, and he grew up with the West and was a truly pioneer Westerner.

He had, I believe, the largest circle of friends of any man in Canada. He was personally known as "George" from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and developed the kindly, unique habit of writing each year a congratulatory birthday letter or a greeting card to each of a long list of friends—not a formal, stereotyped letter, but an individual one with particular mention of some special matter personal to the

recipient. But all the letters and cards had two things in common, firstly, they carried the affection and esteem of the writer, and secondly, all had the admonition that it was unnecessary to write a reply. Even if he was going to be absent from the City, he dictated to his secretary before he went away, greetings that were to be sent out as the proper dates came around.

Mr. Allan himself told the members of this Club some years ago that on one occasion when he was ill in the East, a greeting card was sent by his secretary (according to his instructions) to an old friend, Jim Mitchell of Vancouver, who had died. Here are Mr. Allan's own words about the matter:

"Apparently at that time Jim Mitchell was up with his pals under the stars looking down very benignly. But the Royal Trust Company, his executors, got the card, and I received a very charming letter on his behalf, saying that if Mr. Mitchell had been on earth they felt sure it would have given him great happiness to have received the card. I thought that was so damn funny of Mr. Winslow that I said to my little girl, 'We will keep this up on Jim; we will send him another next year.' Next year another card was sent, and another felicitous letter of acknowledgment was received, and I know the part of the letter that gave me a tremendous kick was at the end, where he mentioned incidentally, '*Mr. Mitchell is still dead.*'"

When I was in Toronto on one occasion, I noticed the inscription under the portrait of Chief Justice Osgoode in Osgoode Hall. That inscription is as follows:

(Tablet erected in the Parish Church, Harrow, Middlesex, England, as a memorial to Chief Justice Osgoode who died in 1824.)

"Respected and loved for integrity and talent, he had that which should accompany old age: Honour and troops of friends."

I copied that inscription and when I came back to Winnipeg, I sent it to one of George Allan's daughters and said that that inscription might well be placed beneath her father's portrait.

George Allan was a good story teller and had a great fund of stories—some of them not easily tellable in mixed company—but all of them apt and to the point.

One of his stories about the optimist and the pessimist is a great favourite of mine.

A man and his wife had two sons: the elder son, Albert, about 12 years old, was a cynical youth—always complaining—a regular pessimist. Nothing ever pleased him. The other, about 7 years old, was a regular "Sunny Jim." Happiness oozed from him all the time. Nothing seemed to disturb his joy and optimism. So when Christmas was near at hand, the father decided to test these two boys. He

was going to see if he couldn't, for once, please his pessimistic son and fill him with happiness, while at the same time he would try to make "Sunny Jim" dissatisfied for once. So he bought all kinds of fine presents for the older boy. And when the boys' stockings were hung up at night, he put the expensive presents around Albert's stocking. But he put nothing in the other stocking until early morning when he arose and went out on to the street and picked up a ball of frozen horse manure and put it in the younger boy's stocking. In the morning the older boy came down first and got his presents. His parents called him into their bedroom and said "well Albert, what did Santa Claus bring you?"

"Well," sneered Albert, "he brought me quite a lot of stuff, but there's nothing I really want. He brought me a pair of skates but they're rocker skates and I wanted racing skates. And this watch is an open faced watch and I wanted a watch with a hunting case—And here's a stick pin for my tie, but who wants a stick pin—and here's a Boys Own Annual, but I don't want that kind of a book—and here's a knife, but I'm sure it's poor steel it's not Sheffield and it's only got two blades and I wanted one with three blades." And the hearts of the parents grew sadder and sadder as they listened to him.

Just then in burst "Sunny Jim" dragging his stocking after him yelling: "Daddy, Daddy—Santa Claus brought me a pony but he got away."

Well that's one of George Allan's stories told in this club.

As for myself when I look over a lot of Mining Company stock certificates which I have in my office, I feel like saying "*Santa Claus brought me a pony but he got away.*"

In later years George was sometimes lengthy in his remarks when called upon to speak, and Mr. Elsey has reminded me of an interesting story about him on one occasion when the Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King, Premier of Canada, was a guest at this Club some years ago.

On this particular occasion instructions had been given that the dinner was to be hurried so that the guest would have time to go to a meeting of Liberals at the Fort Garry Hotel.

The dinner went off on time and the set speeches were duly given, when someone suggested that "before we break up Mr. Allan might say a few words."

Well, when George got on his feet to talk about the West, and particularly about Winnipeg, he found he had so many things to say, that he could not be stopped, although Mr. Mackenzie King's friends kept passing notes to him to inform him of the hour. But he never read the notes; he simply laid them on the table in front of him until he finished.

It was too late then for Mr. King to go to his meeting of Liberals, and he had to leave immediately for his train.

When George came downstairs and someone spoke to him about his speech being too long and that Mr. King had missed his meeting, with a twinkle in his eye, he remarked, "Well, that was a damn good break for the Conservative Party."

The other former President, about whom I wish to speak, is Mr. Edward Hamilton Macklin, whom we all love and esteem and whom we are delighted to have with us tonight.

Mr. Macklin became a member of this Club in the year 1902. He was elected to the Committee in 1912, and re-elected term after term until he completed 21 years of continuous service as a member of the Committee. He was President for four years, namely 1925 to 1929, and he filled that office with great dignity and tact. I do not know of any member who has worked harder for the Club than Mr. Macklin. On his retirement from office as a member of the committee in 1933, the members of the Club, in meeting assembled, expressed their sincere appreciation of the valuable services which he had rendered, and presented him with a set of decanters. I am sure we all hope that Mr. Macklin will be able to use these decanters for many years to come.

Later on this evening I shall read you a letter from him to the Club which will give you some conception of the affection which he has for the Manitoba Club and for this old building.

Mr. Campbell also spoke of the *Tradition of Honour and Personal Character* in the Club members.

That Tradition has been well lived up to throughout the years.

As far as I am aware we have had no scandal attached to this Club, no lasting and bitter animosities between members, no factional groups, no "welshing" on money payments.

As an instance of the high standing of the members, Mr. Elsey informs me that while the Club, during the 21 years he has been here, has cashed thousands upon thousands of cheques for the convenience of members, the only loss which he ever made was the sum of \$5.00, and that happened because, by mistake, he cashed a cheque for a man whom he thought was still a member but who had resigned.

And this Club has a great Military Tradition to which Mr. Campbell referred. I wonder how many of you have heard of the Annual Manitoba Club "Rifle Shoot" in which the members of this Club used to indulge on each 24th of May at the Sturgeon Creek Rifle Range. In the early days many of our members were military or ex-military men. If you will look at the "highlights" printed on your programme, you will see that the Constitution originally provided that all officers of the regular forces and militia should be admitted as members of the Club without ballot. For our rifle shoots the Winnipeg Rifles (now the Royal Winnipeg

Rifles) used to supply the ammunition and the rifles. There was a prize for everyone. On one occasion there were so many prizes that when we got through it was found that there were more prizes than contestants so they had to shoot dice for the remaining prizes. And there was, of course, plenty of refreshments of all kinds. So much so that the aim of our sharp-shooters was not as accurate at the close of the days as at the beginning; in fact sometimes the contestant would shoot at the wrong target. Then the presentation of prizes won at the rifle shoot was the occasion for a glorious club dinner. The last of the annual "rifle shoots" took place in 1912.

In furtherance of our military tradition, members of our Club have taken an active and prominent part in all wars in which Great Britain and Canada have engaged since the Club was formed, such as:

The Nile Expedition for the relief of Gordon,

The South African War,

The Riel Rebellion of 1885, and

The First World War of 1914.

And in the present World War our members and their sons and daughters are well represented in all lines of service. We are proud of the part which our Club members and their families have taken and are taking in the wars for King and Country.

In this war our Club members and their families have suffered and are suffering serious losses. Numerous young men have been killed and others seriously wounded or taken prisoner.

I see some members here who bear a smiling countenance, but whose hearts are sad at the great calamity which has befallen them. Tonight on behalf of all the Members we tender to those of our Club who have been bereaved or whose sons have been wounded or imprisoned or who are missing our sincere sympathy in their sorrow, our gratitude for the services which their sons and daughters have performed in the fight for freedom, and at the same time we desire to express and record our sense of pride in their glorious achievements.

Our hope is that the present war will soon be at an end and that those who are in the services will soon be back again in our midst.

An now I wish to speak about *Changes in the Club*.

In the early days there was a great difference in the type of Club members as compared with those of the present time. Members of those days were in many cases typical club men of that era from English clubs; they were jealous of the Club's traditions. They demanded the best service possible and that proper standards must be maintained. Some of them were even jealous of the particular part of

the Club which they would occupy, and considered that they had a prior claim to certain chairs. In the cloakroom, for some time every member had his own particular hat-peg, and it was considered quite improper for a person to hang his hat or coat on another man's peg.

Now in those days no first class Club could function without a "Complaint book" in which any member could register his formal complaint as to the way in which the Club was being run or the way in which he was being treated by the committee or by any fellow-member.

We have two of the original Complaint Books between 12th December, 1884, and 24th August, 1911.

Let us look at some of these complaints, each of which was signed by the member complaining, and as we do so, let us remember that in 1884, Winnipeg was a *small town* of less than 20,000 population, with no street cars, no paved streets, with wooden sidewalks, and with few modern conveniences.

One of the earliest entries in the first *Complaint Book*, was on Dec. 23/84, two days before Christmas:

"The whisky is very bad."

This complaint, made 60 years ago by a member of the Club who was recognized as a real connoisseur of whisky was a *complaint of great merit*.

In passing may I say that I have heard that same complaint hurled at our Liquor Commission today. This complaint shows that human nature and human habits were much the same 60 years ago as today.

Then here's an odd complaint:

Jan. 5/85. "*Tabasco sauce* short for lunch. *Bottle only to be seen.*"

Then here's one by a member who was evidently careful of expense:

Jan. 9/85. "Unnecessary waste of gas all over the house—12 o'clock p.m."

Jan. 10/85. "Respectfully request that the Committee will have nail brushes furnished to the wash rooms, and that another hair brush be added to the equipment and that they occasionally be washed.

March 11/85. "Requested by the undersigned that the quality of the *liqueurs* (curacao, chartreuse, etc., etc.) be examined. Those at present supplied are *very inferior.*"

Jan. 11/85. "The expression 'meal ticket' now in use in the Club is most objectionable and is only applicable to a railroad boarding car—would respectfully suggest that 'coffee room' would answer all purposes and be a more refined expression—"

Jan. 13/85. *Same member.* "About a month ago a parcel addressed to me was left with the Hall Porter and cannot be found. The Ex. Hall Porter admits having seen it."

Apparently as no satisfactory answer seems to have been made to these complaints, the same member put this in the Complaint Book about two months later:

"Two complaints dated (respectively) January 11th and 13th have never been favored with any consideration or remark. How is this?"

And the Committee answered on the opposite side of the page:

"If the gentleman remains sufficiently long *lucid*, he will find that there is no longer any cause for complaint No. 1—. As regards complaint No. 2 the Committee do not hold themselves liable for washing coming C.O.D."

That of course was a nasty crack, so the member immediately replied as follows in the Complaint Book:

"These heiroglyphics are unsatisfactory. A more complete explanation would meet the views of" (member's name).

Opposite which the Committee put the following: "We don't care to make any further explanation."

Then there were complaints about the food:

April 1/85. "Butter awfully powerful, stronger than the Queen's Own." Signed by a gentleman who was subsequently Chief Justice of Manitoba.

Don't forget that in those days there were no Cold Storage Plants here.

There were complaints about the brand of cigarettes, about the price of cigars, lunches and drinks, the type of soap used, the kind of cheese and coffee, lack of ink in the ink wells, and of toothpicks on the hall table, scarcity of towels in the washroom and innumerable other small things (but *all* important in Club life) which showed how the members were watching closely the Committee and the Steward and insisting upon good service at reasonable cost.

And here's a complaint signed by our friend and member who, we are pleased to know, is still with us (Mr. P. A. Macdonald), on July 24/85.

"Would suggest that *fly traps* be placed in *Coffee Room* and that the sugar bowls be kept covered with napkins." Today we have almost forgotten what sugar bowls look like.

The Committee's note to both of these was "attended to."

That was the only complaint made by Mr. Macdonald which I could find.

Then on Aug. 25/85, three members signed the following:

"A number of members desire that the waiters should be supplied with white coats."

This would seem to be a reasonable proposition, but see what a storm it provoked, the next entry being the following:

"In reference to the above 'a number of members' of the Manitoba Club would be very sorry to see the Club imitate

common 'bars' and restaurants. Let us *not* degenerate to a Pot House. '*Uniforms*' or nothing."

Signed by a member ("for himself and on behalf of a number of other members").

Now here's a real complaint:

Sept. 23/85. "The chairs of the Club are in such a dilapidated condition that they tear the trousers of almost everyone who sits down on them. I hate complaining, but three pairs of trousers from Gibb of Montreal cost \$36, and the expense is a vital question—for I cannot continue to live and pay \$12 per diem for damages."

The shooting season is now upon us. Here's a complaint about wild duck:

Sept 23/85. "Is sage and onion sauce a necessary adjunct of wild duck? I think that when a member orders his duck plain he should be allowed to have his desire gratified."

The notation in the book by the Secretary in regard to the last two complaints was: "The above complaints have been read and the matters referred to will be set right."

Here are a couple of choice complaints:

Oct. 7/85. "No vermouth in the Club today."

Just think of it—a Club without vermouth—and yet at the last fortnightly dinner I saw "Webby" (Mr. H. W. Webster) mixing cocktails without vermouth.

Nov. 2/85. "These six times have I asked for horse radish and find *none*. I would suggest that radish be planted inside the fence"—(nice sarcasm that).

As this had evidently not been attended to the same member wrote two days later:

"Horse radish, Horse radish, Horse radish, My Kingdom for a horse radish."

In the same month the same member made these two complaints:

"No port wine in Club at 2.30 p.m. today," and "I beg to complain of servants using the brushes in the wash room—(I instance the small boy and barkeeper) and the use of the telephone by them. I complain of Arthur the waiter."

Speedy justice was evidently handed out to the waiter as the side note reads: "Attended to—Waiter discharged."

What about this one?

"It is impossible to get worm wood bitters in the Club. There have been none for several weeks"—

What's a Club without worm wood bitters?

Here's a complaint that will never again be made in any Club:

Jan. 10/86. "Chains for hitching horses need attention. The snaps need replacing at once."

While there were complaints about the conduct of employees, there is an almost complete scarcity of complaints about the conduct of other members. The following complaint therefore is interesting, not only because it is the only one of that character in the book, but also because it shows an attempt on the part of a well known member to uphold the Committee of Management.

The complaint is dated November 27th, 1888, and is as follows:

"I beg to complain of conduct on the part of Mr. X unworthy of a gentleman. He three times in the public dining room in the presence of the servants, of Mr. Darby Taylor and Mr. F. H. Matthewson and a guest who was dining with me, threatened to 'kick my backside' because I corrected him in a statement he was loudly making that it was impossible for a member to obtain ice or milk or soda or anything else in the morning, and that this was not the fault of the Steward but the fault of the Committee. I corrected him by saying that I had no doubt such a thing had occurred as he said so, but that it was *not* the fault of the Committee, because ample provision had been made by them for such wants and he should make the fact known to them by the Complaint Book."

In the Book nothing appears as to what was done with that complaint.

That particular Complaint Book ends with that entry in November, 1888.

In the other book labelled "Complaints and Suggestions," (the old one was only "Complaints"), the following appears:

Dec. 16/04. "I beg to draw the Committee's attention to the 'cocktails' that are being served to us in the Club—a second class Club can produce better."

Many members of the Club now would welcome even a second class "cocktail."

But this book refers to a new means of conveyance then used by the members—

This entry appears on Aug. 15/05. "No bicycle pump in order." Evidently the Club kept bicycle pumps to pump up the tires of the members' wheels.

And here's an odd one on Aug. 4, 1907, signed by two well known members:

"We on this day have been accosted by Mr. X *for the purpose of trade* in the hall of the Club." Evidently someone had been canvassing for business in the Club.

Before leaving the Complaint Books let me say that while I have referred to some peculiar complaints which were entered therein, as a matter of fact the *actual* number of complaints was very small. For instance in the first book referred to there were 127 entries in the 4 years, while in the last book, there were 78 entries in 7 years. Moreover

certain members seemed to be complainants again and again. Their names were constantly recurring. They were evidently "conscientious objectors," or as Mr. Campbell called them "incurable grouchers."

Since 1911 no Complaint Book has been considered necessary. For a time we had a "complaint box" in which members could put their complaints or suggestions: But now if anyone has a complaint to make, he can make it in writing to our Honorary Secretary, Mr. Vincent Nutter, in accordance with the Bylaws.

So much for the complaint books.

Now I wish to refer to other changes in the Club.

After the Club moved to its Garry Street site in 1881, it became quite an aristocratic Club. Its members considered they were of the aristocracy of the city. It was not easy to become a member, and the committee was very strict in enquiring into the qualifications of each applicant and his wife. When I joined the Club in 1900, one stood in awe of some of the old type of Club members who were so well described by speakers at former meetings.

But in course of time and with the natural progress of the West and the wearing down of class barriers and distinctions, the Club changed with the times. The "exclusiveness" yielded to modern trends and so the Club opened its portals to many desirable men who were in need of such a Club.

70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Accordingly in the year 1924, a drive for new members was put on which resulted in an increase in that year of 220 members, *187 of whom came in on one ballot*. This new membership was much needed at that time from the financial standpoint as the indebtedness of the Club had then reached an all high mark.

We had a mortgage on the property for	\$ 70,000.00
A Bank loan of	19,500.00
Debentures outstanding to members of the Club	77,850.00
And a Bank overdraft of	1,284.00
	<hr/>
A debt in all of approximately\$168,634.00
	<hr/>
Say	<u><u>\$170,000.00</u></u>

That staggering debt was large enough to dismay many persons; but not the officers and members of this Club. They had that confidence in the growth and future prosperity of Winnipeg which was known in Eastern Canada as "Western Optimism."

Time has proven that such optimism was well founded. Today the books of the Club show that we are not only paying our way but that we have on hand Victory Bonds and cash more than enough to pay in full all our indebtedness today (which includes \$27,000.00 still owing on the mortgage).

Now I wish to speak about "Women in the Club," and I speak of this because it was a matter which caused a greater difference of opinion and stronger feeling than any other in the Club's history.

At the annual meeting held in February, 1919, it was suggested that steps should be taken to have *dinner dances* in the Club, and the following resolution was passed:

"That in the opinion of the members here assembled, a mixed dinner dance once a month is desirable in this Club."

This raised such a furore among the members, that a special general meeting was held a few weeks later to consider the above resolution and all matters arising therefrom.

At that meeting letters in opposition to the resolution were read from two of the older members of the Club, Mr. W. O. Nares (a former President), and Mr. E. H. Macklin. This latter letter I desire to read to you.

Mr. Chairman:

The proposal which is being advanced tonight to admit women to the Manitoba Club will, if adopted, work such a revolutionary change in our Club existence, a change so at variance with our conception of Club life and conduct, that I confess I view the project with apprehension and dismay.

I feel so opposed to the suggestion that I cannot refrain from lodging a protest and registering it in written form in order that there may be preserved on the Club's records evidence that vehement resistance was offered on the part of one member, at least, to the attempt to introduce this drastic innovation.

70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Pray, understand me. I defer to no man, living or dead, in my regard for, and my adoration of women—certain types of women—but I believe in women being confined to their proper place and woman's place is not, I submit, within the precincts of a man's club. Certainly their place is not within the walls of the old Manitoba Club.

I am not concerned to be informed that the proposition to admit women has found favor in a Minneapolis Club, nor does it influence me to be told that a certain Club in Toronto has admitted women.

As a member of your Committee I look for direction and guidance in the administration of the Club's affairs to our own members and I am fully persuaded that with their direction, counsel and inspiration, unsupported by any extraneous advice or assistance, we will be quite able to maintain the honour and prestige of our Club and preserve intact its high traditions.

I speak strongly because I feel deeply. I am an old fogey, with old fogey ideas, but I am sure there are others here who can sympathize with, even share my point of view. I love this old building, every apartment in it, every nook and corner of it, every piece of furniture it contains. It is to me a home. To it I come for relaxation, for bodily repose, for spiritual rest. It is more than all this to me. It is a refuge, an asylum and a sanctuary and it means all this to me by reason of the fact that it is *immune* from the presence of women. This may seem an ungracious thing to say but it is true and I am firmly convinced that if once women are permitted to pass our threshold, from that time the charm and, let me say, the undefinable atmosphere which surrounds and clings to a man's club, and which is so precious to a club man, will be lost for all time.

I glory in the progress women have made. I rejoice in the liberty they enjoy. I would extend that freedom to embrace the granting of every privilege they might ask, every wish they might express—save one—the privilege of admission to the Manitoba Club.

I appeal to you, to preserve one little spot on this planet where the swish of women's skirts and the music of their voices are not heard. It is not much of a boon to ask, and to meet it does not involve much of a deprivation to the ladies, not a very great concession from the younger to the older members of the Club, but it would prove a great boon to many of us—who for an hour or two every now and then want to live the simple life.

"E. H. Macklin."

Winnipeg,
March 18, 1919.

The resolution to hold dinner dances was defeated "overwhelmingly."

Again in 1924, five years later, as the result of a movement initiated by certain younger members of the Club, a special general meeting was held to consider the question of holding an occasional dinner dance for members and their guests, and a special committee recommended that the experiment be tried by giving a dinner dance on Hallowe'en, and that at that time the whole building be made available therefor.

The committee also suggested that dinner dances be given at fixed intervals.

The first of these Hallowe'en dinner dances was held on Hallowe'en of 1924, 20 years ago, when the whole Club was most attractively decorated, and with two orchestras in attendance, dancing went on in the main dining room and the oak room. The whole six tables in the billiard room were covered for a buffet, and an army of chefs and waiters attended to the wants of 644 guests. That was followed by a *New Year's Eve* dance when 448 attended, and a dance on the following Hallowe'en, 1925, when the attendance amounted to 339 (about half the attendance of the year before). The peculiar thing about the use made of these functions was that on the first occasion, out of the 644 attending, practically all were members or members' wives

or families, but at the last party where the attendance was 339, only 54 *members* were present, and the rest of those in attendance consisted mostly of outsiders who were friends of members of the Club but *not* members of their families.

It was accordingly decided to hold no more dances.

The experiment proved, in this Club at any rate, the wisdom of the views of the older members in so far as holding dances was concerned.

But by 1930 the Club had so altered its views as to the presence of ladies in certain portions of the Club that it decided to build the present ladies dining-room. And I may say that Mr. Macklin, who had written such a scathing letter about their presence in the Club building, was one of the first to welcome the ladies to these new dining quarters.

Before leaving Mr. Macklin let me say that most of us have known him, not only as a most efficient business executive, but also as one of the world's greatest masters of picturesque explosive language. But there is another side to him of which very few know. How many of his friends know that it has been his custom to send a Bible as a wedding present to his young friends who are getting married. As I remembered this tonight, just before I came here, I sent to my daughter's apartment just beneath mine and asked for the Bible which Mr. Macklin gave her when she was married, and on getting it I copied the following inscription, all of which was in his own handwriting:

"My Dear——

My little wedding gift to you—A study of this book will never diminish your happiness, but if trouble should ever overtake you, which God forbid, turn to it, you and your husband, for the consolation you will surely find.

E. H. Macklin."

Winnipeg,

May 23, 1936.

Mr. President, I have been talking about the past history of the Club. Now I wish to speak briefly about *the Characteristic Features of the Club Today*.

A short time ago someone asked me what these characteristics are?

I think the first characteristic feature is the nebulous, intangible something which, for lack of a better description, I call the "atmosphere of the Club."

—An atmosphere of hospitality?

—An atmosphere of good service?

—An atmosphere of peace and quiet and restfulness?

—An atmosphere of friendship and goodwill?

—An atmosphere of friendly sportsmanship in the various games for which the Club provides facilities?

—A comfortable, cheerful, cozy atmosphere of "hominess" (if I may use that word)?

—An atmosphere of antiquity?

—An atmosphere as if the spirits of the fine club men of years gone by still lingered around and in the Club?

Yes all of that.

But that doesn't complete the list. There is in addition an indefinable feeling which can only be summed up as "The atmosphere of the Club," which impresses both the members and the strangers who come within our walls.

But there are *some* distinctive features of this Club which *are* visible and tangible and upon which we pride ourselves. One of these is the *fortnightly dinner* held every second Thursday which has become very popular. This feature was inaugurated in 1926, almost 20 years ago, and began with about 25 to 30 attending. (At present we have an average attendance of about 100.) Originally the dinner was for those who played bridge. Two teams were selected at the dinner table which was decorated with white and pink carnations, and as each player was selected for one of the teams he took a carnation of the colour which indicated his team and wore it in his buttonhole. The losing team paid for the dinner. Then some of the poker players got interested and asked if they might join in, and so there was developed the present fortnightly dinner. On each occasion a host is selected for the next dinner, and the present routine was adopted many years ago.

This fortnightly dinner was not introduced for the purpose of *hearing speeches*, but on occasion we have varied the proceedings and have had the pleasure of listening to some outstanding speaker. For instance we were all pleased to have our present Consul General of the United States, Mr. A. W. Klieforth, speak to us at one of these dinners when he first came to Winnipeg.

The main object, however, of the fortnightly dinner is to promote sociability and friendship among the members, and in that respect it has been and continues to be an outstanding feature of our Club.

Another special feature is our *New Year's Day Reception*. For many years that reception was of a very simple character. The President of the Club was at home to the members and had a well filled punch bowl with which to treat the members as they called. A rather interesting story is told me by Mr. Elsey about this punch bowl when Mr. Macklin was elected President of the Club in 1924.

Mr. Macklin had in some way obtained the recipe for what was known as "The Hudson's Bay Punch," a concoction which used to be served in the early days at the Posts of The Hudson's Bay Company, and he gave this recipe to Mr. Elsey with instructions to see that the punch was made according to it. However, when ordering the rum for the punch, Mr. Elsey obtained overproof rum, and no allowance

having been made for this when the punch was prepared, it was terribly strong with the result that a good many of the members showed the effects of the stimulating drink served by the President.

I am told that one of the members found himself at home and did not know how he got there, and that another member on reaching home found, to his consternation, that he had been so exhilarated by his visit to the Club that he had left his wife waiting for him in the car outside the Club at a different door from the one he went out at. However, my information is that the punch had apparently no effect on Mr. Macklin as he took a drink with everyone who called, and subsequently when he went home had a couple of double Scotches before he went to bed.

Then about 1929 when Mr. Macklin was still President, it was decided to decorate the Club on New Year's Day so as to make it appear like an Old Country tavern such as the Cheshire Inn and to serve luncheon to the members. That habit has continued until the present time, and now our New Year's Day reception, with our steward, waiters and waitresses dressed in early English costume, has become one of the special features of this Club, and is largely attended by our members.

Another distinctive feature is our *Art Gallery*. Most of our pictures belonged to one of our members, the late

Mr. W. F. Alloway. According to his will, this collection was left to the Winnipeg Foundation on the understanding that the pictures would be hung in the Manitoba Club as long as it remains a "first class" club. There are in all 51 pictures in the collection, and a number of them are reputed to be quite valuable.

Then we have two fine paintings that were presented to the Club by Mr. A. J. Andrews, K.C., and a sketch by Nast, the famous New York cartoonist, of himself which was executed in the Club where he was being entertained by the members some years ago. We have also a crayon sketch of Earl Grey by Sargent, autographed by Earl Grey himself.

You will notice also that the Club has in the main hall a very fine buffalo head. This was presented to the Club by Mr. Montagu Aldous who shot the buffalo himself in 1881. Mr. Aldous became a member of the Club in 1882 (62 years ago), was our President from 1909 to 1913, and is still with us. He is in his 96th year and resides in the Club building. We extend to him our special greetings on this occasion.

I might also mention the very fine grandfather's clock which is to be seen in the ladies' parlour. This clock, which is handmade and of very fine workmanship, was presented to the Club by Mr. William Whyte Hunter of Minneapolis, a grandson of the late Sir William Whyte.

What should the Club mean to the members?

Now before closing these rambling remarks, I should like to say to the members present what, in my view, membership in this Club should mean to us.

Membership in this Club should be a "*Badge of Honour.*" The Club, while providing us with meals in pleasant surroundings, should be much more than a glorified eating house or restaurant. It should be a second home where we can lay aside the cares and troubles of our business without assuming at the same time the cares and tribulations of our every day homes, much as we love them.

It should be a man's meeting place, where lasting friendships are made and cultivated, and where good fellowship, congenial hospitality, good sportsmanship, thorough sociability and high standards of conduct always prevail—where we can read or rest, or chat or write, or play billiards or cards, as we are moved by our heart's desire—a place where we can rejoice with those of our members who have enjoyed good fortune, and where we can grieve with those who grieve—a place where the members are proud of the Club's history and traditions and where we can always say to the shades of Mr. Campbell and our other departed members that we have tried faithfully to live up to the traditions of the Club of which Mr. Campbell spoke to us so eloquently thirty years ago.

THE END.

AN ADDITION OF INTEREST

The Case of the Prince's Picture

Dr. Douglas in his address at the 60th Anniversary Dinner told the following story:

"If I were Conan Doyle writing this, I might describe it as 'The Case of the Prince's Picture.' Some twenty years ago, or maybe a little more, Prince Fushimi, brother of the then Emperor of Japan, came through Winnipeg, and was entertained at dinner at the Club. Professor McDiarmid was president at that time. It was a very elaborate dinner, and went off extremely well. The Prince made a speech and spoke very good English. He had some of his staff here. He appeared to appreciate our polite attention so much that he presented the Club with his photograph. This was quite a large photograph. It represented the Prince in full military uniform. He had on his decorations, and a peculiarly shaped helmet with an aigret on it. It was altogether a very handsome production. It was framed in a magnificent frame of solid ebony, with the royal arms of Japan in gold on the upper part of the frame.

"This picture in its frame hung in the hall here for a considerable time. Then it disappeared, and nothing more was seen of it. One evening I happened to go into the bar, to see how things were getting along in there (laughter), and I happened to glance up and I noticed that our beer license was hanging over the bar in a frame. It seemed to me that

the frame looked rather familiar. I examined it a little more closely, and saw this was the frame which had at one time contained the portrait of Prince Fushimi. I went to Mr. Macklin, who was president of the Club at that time, and I said, 'Do you know, Macklin, we have something in the Club here that possibly no other club in the world has got. You will be interested in hearing that it is a very unique decoration. I do not think there is another club in the world where they have their beer license framed in a frame which was presented to the Club by the uncle of the present Emperor of Japan, and I know that the Japanese minister at Ottawa would be delighted to know the use to which the frame was put.' (Laughter.) Mr. Macklin spoke very rapidly for a little while. (Laughter.) I am not going to tell you what Mr. Macklin said. I am not going to use the words he used, but I gathered from his remarks he was not pleased. He proposed to take immediate steps to have a change made, and it was changed very shortly afterwards. If any of you here tonight are sufficiently interested, and if you will go into the hall of the Ladies' Room, you will see that the ebony frame houses a very beautiful Japanese print which was selected by the artistic genius of Mr. George Northwood."

LIST OF PRESIDENTS

1874 to 1944

HON. A. G. B. BANNATYNE	- - - -	1874 - 1879
J. H. ROWAN, Esq.	- - - -	1879 - 1880
J. F. BAIN, Esq.	- - - -	1880 - 1881
C. J. BRYDGES, Esq.	- - - -	1881 - 1885
G. B. SPENCER, Esq.	- - - -	1885 - 1886
C. S. HOARE, Esq.	- - - -	1886 - 1888
HON. MR. JUSTICE J. F. BAIN	- - -	1888 - 1890
W. B. SCARTH, Esq.	- - - -	1890 - 1896
SIR HUGH J. MACDONALD	- - -	1896 - 1900
HON. CHIEF JUSTICE A. C. KILLAM	- -	1900 - 1903
F. W. STOBART, Esq.	- - - -	1903 - 1904
D. W. McDERMID, Ph.D.	- - -	1904 - 1909
MONTAGUE ALDOUS, Esq.	- - - -	1909 - 1913
W. O. NARES, Esq.	- - - -	1913 - 1916
G. W. ALLAN, Esq.	- - - -	1916 - 1923
W. J. CHRISTIE, Esq.	- - - -	1923 - 1925
E. H. MACKLIN, Esq.	- - - -	1925 - 1929
MR. JUSTICE S. E. RICHARDS	- - - -	1929 - 1931
G. W. NORTHWOOD, Esq.	- - - -	1931 - 1933
K. L. PATTON, Esq.	- - - -	1933 - 1935
H. R. DRUMMOND-HAY, Esq.	- - - -	1935 - 1937
F. G. PHIPPS BAKER, Esq.	- - - -	1937 - 1938
HUGH J. HICKEY, Esq.	- - - -	1939 - 1940
CECIL S. GUNN, Esq.	- - - -	1941 - 1942
J. HERBERT RILEY, Esq.	- - - -	1943 -

THE COMMITTEE FOR YEAR 1944

PRESIDENT, J. HERBERT RILEY

HON.-TREAS., A. CUMBERLAND REID

HON.-SEC., J. VINCENT NUTTER

CECIL S. GUNN

FRED. J. MANNING

JOHN A. GUNN, M.D.

R. G. PERSSE

